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REMARKS

Claims 1-19 were examined and rejected. Claims 2 and 8 were rejected under §112.

Claims 1-19 were rejected under §102 as being anticipated by Saleh. Claims 2 and 8 are now cancelled. Claims 1, 7 and 15 are currently amended. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 7 and 15 distinguish Saleh because an upstream device maintains a mirror, i.e., backup, of control plane information for a downstream device. In other words, information is retrieved from an upstream device to recover from a failure. Saleh teaches that LSAs are retrieved from downstream nodes in order to recover from a failure. See, e.g., para. [0087], which states that the GET LSA message is sent to a downstream node. Claims 1, 7 and 15 have been amended to recite that the device which maintains the mirror is upstream relative to the mirrored device. Support for this is in the specification of this application at page 3, lines 12-20, which states that redundant storage of label information is distributed because a mirror in an upstream LSR includes label information only from a downstream LSR database. Claims 3-6, 9-14 and 16-19 are dependent claims which further distinguish the invention, and which are allowable for the same reasons as their respective base claims. Withdrawal of the rejections of claims 1, 3-7 and 9-19 as being anticipated by Saleh is respectfully requested.

Claims 2 and 8 were rejected under §112 for lacking support in the specification. Since those claims are now cancelled, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

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Applicants have made a diligent effort to place the claims in condition for allowance. However, should there remain unresolved issues that require adverse action, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone the undersigned, Applicants' Attorney at 978-264-4001 (X305) so that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible.

For these reasons, and in view of the above amendments, this application is now considered to be in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Date

Holmes A. Anderson
Holmes Anderson, Reg. No. 37,272
Attorney/Agent for Applicant(s)
McGuinness & Manaras LLP
125 Nagog Park
Acton, MA 01720
(978) 264-4001

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